

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Thomas Denny Sanford was born to a middle-class Minnesota family on December 23, 1935, at the height of the Great Depression; and,

Whereas, Denny's first job was at the age of 8 when he worked in his father's garment shop, and as a teenager, he spent his summer days working for his father selling clothing to shops; and,

Whereas, In 1954, Denny graduated from St. Paul Central High, and he received his college degree from the University of Minnesota in 1958; and,

Whereas, After a successful career in sales and distribution, Denny took his company, Contech, public at \$5.00 a share in 1972, and in 1982, sold his company for \$35.00 a share; and,

Whereas, In the late 1980s, after several successful years as a venture capitalist, Denny purchased United National Bank in South Dakota, now known as First PREMIER Bank, and later founded PREMIER Bankcard, and made South Dakota his home; and,

Whereas, Denny's banking businesses have grown from 5 locations to 18 locations, and employ over 2,300 South Dakotans, and has been recognized by the ABA Banking Journal as the top performing financial institution of its asset size in the country; and,

Whereas, In 1998, Denny pledged \$2,000,000 to the Children's Home Society to help abused and neglected children find new hope and to encourage the giving of others; and,

Whereas, Denny established the Sanford Foundation as a conduit for charitable giving, made a lead gift to construct a shelter for abused and neglected children in Rapid City, pledged \$16,000,000 to Sioux Valley Hospital toward construction of a children's hospital in Sioux Falls, and contributed \$1,000,000 to the Red Cross for victims of Hurricane Katrina; and,

Whereas, Denny Sanford's generosity has been bestowed upon countless other worthy causes in South Dakota, and many businesses and communities have significantly benefited from his business acumen and philanthropic generosity; and,

Whereas, Denny will observe his 70th Birthday with all the good wishes, fanfare, and celebration such a milestone warrants, as his friends and relatives gather on December 10, 2005, to honor him and celebrate his life and the camaraderie of the day; and it is fitting and proper for the Governor to make note of this milestone in the life of a man who has lived an exemplary life for all to emulate:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim December 10, 2005, as

DENNY SANFORD DAY

in South Dakota, and I join all his friends and relatives in wishing him a very happy birthday, good health, and great happiness.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Thirtieth Day of November in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.

M. Michael Rounds
M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Ch. Nelson
Chris Nelson, Secretary of State